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Message Text

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13
ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 EUR-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 ARA-10 EA-07 NEA-06 DRC-01 ACDA-10 EB-03

AID-05 SCCT-01 /107 W
---------- 066274
R 100150Z OCT 74
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6198
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

UNCLAS USUN 3906

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UN, SO
SUBJ: PRESS CONFERENCE BY PRESIDENT SIAD OF SOMALIA AT
UN OCTOBER 9

1. FOLLOWING HIS ADDRESS TO THE UNGA, MAJOR GENERAL
MOHAMED SIAD BARRE HELD PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE UN
OCTOBER 9. HE MADE NO OPENING STATEMENT BUT ANSWERED
QUESTIONS:

A. SIAD SAID NAMIBIA SHOULD BE FREED IMMEDIATELY AND
THAT IT IS UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, SPECIFICALLY
THE UN, TO SPEED THIS PROCESS. SOUTH AFRICA IS TRYING
TO DEFEND A HOPELESS CAUSE AND DELAYING TACTICS PROVE
NOTHING. HE ASSERTED THE LUSAKA MANIFESTO ASKED SOUTH AFRICA
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TO "UNDERSTAND THE WAY OF THE WORLD" AND GRANT FREEDOM.

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B. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS, SIAD SAID ALL COUNTRIES MUST DECIDE THEIR OWN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND SOMALIA AVOIDS MEDDLING IN SUCH AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, SOMALIA HOPES THAT WITH RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ETHIOPIA WILL TAKE "A BETTER DIRECTION" IN THE FUTURE.

C. SOMALIA REALLY BELIEVES IN THE UN, THE PRESIDENT ASSERTED, ADDING IT IS UP TO THE MEMBERSHIP TO DO A BETTER JOB IN IMPLEMENTING UN RESOLUTIONS.

D. WITH REFERENCE TO HIS EARLIER SPEECH TO THE GA, SIAD DECLARED IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE MORE ADVANCED COUNTRIES TO HELP STRENGTHEN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - THEY HAVE "A HISTORICAL AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO DO IT." HE DECRIED SPENDING VAST AMOUNTS ON HEAVY WEAPONS AND SAID THESE FUNDS WOULD BETTER BE SPENT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE PRAISED BILATERAL ASSISTANCE BUT SAID IT IS INSUFFICIENT NOTING THAT COUNTRIES NO LONGER WISHED TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE TIED TO "POLITICAL STRINGS."

E. SOMALIA BELIEVES THERE SHOULD BE "MORE COMPREHENSIVE COOPERATION" BETWEEN THE OAU AND THE UN. "WE MUST WORK TOGETHER", SIAD SAID, THROUGH POLITICAL, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC LEVELS. IN A VEILED WAY HE HINTED THAT IF GOOD WILL EFFORTS FAILED AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONTINUED TO BE NEGATED, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR THE OAU, NOT NECESSARILY IN THE UN CONTEXT, TO DEFEND ITSELF, ALTHOUGH, HE ASSERTED, "WE DON'T BELIEVE IN WAR."

F. SIAD BELIEVES THAT MAJOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS "HAVE A RIGHT" TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL KINDS OF INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS BUT HE INDICATED THEIR REPRESENTATIVES MUST BE SCREENED SO THAT THE WRONG PEOPLE ARE NOT ACCEPTED.

G. ASKED ABOUT A REPORTED SOVIET MILITARY INSTALLATION IN SOMALIA, THE PRESIDENT DENIED THAT THERE WAS ANY PERMANENT SOVIET BASE IN HIS COUNTRY. HE ADDED THAT THE USSR NEVER ASKED FOR SUCH A BASE. SIAD SAID THAT SOMALIA GRANTS REFUELING AND OTHER RIGHTS TO ANYONE WHO ASKS.
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H. ASKED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOMALIA, THE PRESIDENT SAID "THINGS ARE MOVING VERY WELL", AND HE LAID SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON RURAL CAMPAIGN, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, LITERACY AND AN ON-GOING CENSUS.

I. REGARDING THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL, SIAD DECLARED IF ALL ELSE FAILS THE OAU WOULD CALL

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ON THE REST OF THE WORLD TO EXPEL ANY COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT
RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS.
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